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story would conform. The mere distrust of novelty seems partially accountable for the legends ; whoever initiated a new mode of action took a risk which would probably involve suffering. An amusing instance is cited (p. 197) in which a father, who had previously had seven girls, was presented with a first boy. He could not be persuaded to have his son christened in the new font of the new church, on the ground that the first child baptized in a new church is bound to die ; had it been a lass, it would not have mattered. In relation to customs of kindred nature, chapters are added regarding pillars, landmarks, etc.

*W. W. Newell.*

THE HISTORY OF IRELAND. By GEOFFREY KEATING, D. D. Vol. i. containing the Introduction and the first book of the History. Edited, with translation and notes, by DAVID COMYN, M. R. I. A. London : Published for the Irish Text Society by David Nutt, 57-59, Long Acre. 1902. Pp. xviii, 237, 17.

Neither the year of Keating's birth nor of his death is known ; between 1570 and 1650 is assumed as his period. He is honored as the introducer of the modern Irish language, as distinct from the obscure bardic style of earlier authors. He trusted and followed legends and traditions, accessible to him in manuscripts now in some part perished, and has been unjustly criticised for such confidence. The volume now printed contains his account of the origins of Irish history ; this is preceded by an apologetic introduction, in which Keating defends Ireland against calumnies (as he thinks) of ancient and modern authors. The chapters of the history relate the arrival and settlement of successive races, the children of Partholon and Neimheadh, the Firbolg, the Tuatha Dé Danann, and the sons of Mileadh. The accounts of such settlements are of course unworthy of consideration either as history or tradition, being in the main inventions of middle-Irish bards after the tenth century ; but interwoven with the record as given by Keating are a multitude of data as to proper names of localities, folk-tales, and observations in regard to custom and legend, which make the material valuable to the lover of the Irish past. For the Irish text, the editor has used all accessible MSS. A word of praise must be said as to the beauty of the form given to the work, which leaves nothing to be desired. In addition to the present volume, the Society proposes to issue during the year the first portion of the *Duanairé Fhinn*, a collection of Ossianic poetry, and has accepted an offer to edit the *Leabhar Gabhala*, or "Book of Invasions," a work as yet inaccessible. It is earnestly to be desired that the undertakings of the Society should receive substantial American encouragement. The annual fee is 7s. 6d. ; communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Eleanor Hull, 201 Hanover Square, London.

*W. W. N.*